



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending August 28, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

Released August 29, 2005, 4 pm

*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)*

**Good Week for Field Work:** Scattered showers provided mild relief this past week while temperatures cooled slightly across Pennsylvania. Highs stayed in the low 80's with lows dropping into the 50's in some areas. All eyes are now on Hurricane Katrina, which looks to devastate many parts of the Gulf Coast but could bring plenty of moisture to the Keystone State later in the week. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included haymaking, hauling manure, harvesting peaches and apples, harvesting tobacco, silo filling, preparing for fall plantings, and attending local county fairs.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 28, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
38	32	29	1

**Crops:** Ninety-seven percent of the soybean crop is now setting pods, 15 percentage points ahead of last year. Soybean conditions improved slightly from a week ago as 63 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Eighty-one percent of the corn crop is in the dough stage, and 44 percent of the crop is dented. Also, 11 percent corn acreage is mature. Corn crop conditions improved slightly from last week as 57 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. The corn silage harvest is off and running as it is now 12 percent complete for the year. Twenty-seven percent of potatoes and 60 percent of the tobacco crop are now harvested, both ahead of the 5-year average. Seventeen percent of barley has been planted. Ninety percent of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cutting and 14 percent of the 4<sup>th</sup> cutting of alfalfa are now complete. The 3<sup>rd</sup> cutting is well ahead of schedule while the 4<sup>th</sup> cutting is slightly behind. Seventy-five percent of

the 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting of timothy is now complete. The quality of hay made this week was 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. This was a moderate improvement over last week.

The apple crop looks good as 87 percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent. Twenty-five percent of apples and 77 percent of peaches are now harvested.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions remain in terrible shape. Some farmers are reporting they are now feeding hay stocks as if it were the middle of winter because of the shape pastures are in. Sixty-six percent of the state's pasture land is rated as either very poor or poor.

**U.S. As of August 21, 2005:** Highlights: Near-normal temperatures and moderate rainfall in the Corn Belt increased soil moisture levels, improving the condition of soybeans. However, much of the corn crop was beyond the critical dough stage. In the northern and central Great Plains, mostly dry weather favored small grain harvest and summer crop development. Corn: Eighty percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, compared with 68 percent last year and 72 percent for the 5-year average. Denting, at 40 percent, was 6 percentage points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of normal. The crop was mature on 6 percent of the acreage, the same as last year and the 5-year average. Soybeans: Pods were setting on 94 percent of the acreage, 4 points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of normal. Small Grains: Barley growers had harvested 65 percent of their acreage, compared with 45 percent last year and 57 percent for the 5-year average. The oat harvest advanced to 93 percent complete, 15 points ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of normal.

# Weather Data For Week Ending August 28, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 28, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	85	55	70	1	0.14	1	12.42	-5.40	50	2,329	334	3,643
Franklin	83	49	66	-3	0.31	2	16.73	-3.78	84	2,107	223	3,469
Meadville	81	50	66	0	0.66	1	16.99	-3.30	58	2,193	467	3,551
Mercer	83	50	66	-2	0.34	2	17.86	-1.49	81	2,169	306	3,509
Springboro	83	49	65	-4	0.52	1	17.50	-0.27	64	2,010	28	3,308
Warren	83	48	65	-3	0.20	1	13.80	-6.57	60	2,074	242	3,416
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	78	41	61	-2	0.09	1	16.90	-3.53	66	1,634	285	2,903
Emporium	85	47	64	0	0.35	1	12.08	-8.52	62	2,070	561	3,413
Kane	80	40	60	-2	0.19	1	13.43	-7.26	56	1,575	249	2,835
Laporte	83	49	64	-3	0.43	1	17.75	-1.12	69	1,881	-1	3,180
Lock Haven	90	52	69	1	0.19	1	9.89	-8.73	51	2,373	385	3,766
Port Allegany	81	44	62	-2	0.27	1	11.94	-7.33	56	1,793	308	3,066
Renovo	88	49	67	-2	0.20	1	8.50	-10.12	50	2,333	345	3,725
Ridgway	82	45	63	-2	0.35	1	14.28	-6.32	58	1,818	309	3,135
Stevenson Dam	86	50	66	3	0.35	1	11.72	-8.88	61	2,190	681	3,564
Towanda	87	50	66	-2	0.01	1	12.57	-3.07	51	2,180	282	3,536
Wellsboro	82	46	63	0	0.11	1	16.77	1.04	53	1,768	337	3,040
Williamsport	89	52	69	-1	0.36	1	18.04	-0.41	46	2,520	329	3,924
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	87	45	64	-2	0.23	1	15.04	-2.79	53	1,952	326	3,272
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	93	50	70	3	0.05	1	11.21	-6.17	50	2,559	475	3,963
Susquehanna	86	49	66	3	0.05	1	16.17	-2.91	62	2,084	530	3,421
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	85	49	66	-2	0.04	1	15.11	-4.35	58	2,220	271	3,624
New Castle	91	49	68	1	0.47	1	17.80	0.18	56	2,401	451	3,801
Slippery Rock	84	47	66	1	0.40	2	16.74	-2.18	60	2,229	468	3,643
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	85	46	66	-4	0.39	2	10.07	-6.86	40	2,158	74	3,541
DuBois	80	49	64	-2	0.26	1	13.76	-5.77	74	2,031	217	3,396
Lewistown	89	50	68	-4	0.16	1	13.69	-4.65	49	2,483	201	3,908
Middletown	91	58	73	1	0.49	1	14.89	-3.03	45	2,882	312	4,347
Prince Gallitzi	82	46	64	-3	0.02	1	15.15	-6.62	63	1,923	248	3,259
Selinsgrove	89	52	68	-2	0.30	1	15.43	-3.22	50	2,400	261	3,805
State College	85	49	67	-2	0.15	1	10.05	-6.99	54	2,368	304	3,782
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	91	51	72	2	0.36	1	17.56	-1.91	53	2,593	236	4,032
Lehighton	89	51	69	-2	0.47	1	17.45	-1.87	53	2,371	91	3,789
Matamoras	88	49	67	-3	0.21	1	17.43	-2.27	58	2,077	11	3,436
Tobyhanna	89	51	69	6	0.25	1	19.61	-1.19	78	2,312	881	3,718
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	54	69	0	0.52	2	13.70	-4.42	62	2,655	565	4,104
Derry	82	51	66	-3	0.30	1	18.38	-0.44	53	2,243	270	3,649
Myersdale	80	45	63	-6	0.52	2	15.44	-5.12	54	1,754	-180	3,067
Mount Pleasant	84	48	66	-1	0.74	2	19.59	-1.80	67	2,199	440	3,608
Pittsburgh Intl	85	53	68	-2	0.38	2	16.81	-0.30	58	2,528	342	3,960
Rector	84	52	66	0	0.55	2	17.47	-3.92	81	2,192	433	3,598
Waynesburg	87	50	68	-1	0.25	2	15.26	-3.55	53	2,287	260	3,705
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	88	53	70	-3	0.48	2	18.35	1.70	55	2,546	36	3,989
Everett	86	46	64	-6	0.23	2	9.73	-6.77	51	1,798	-268	3,137
Hanover	90	54	70	-2	0.77	2	20.32	3.67	51	2,533	23	3,967
Shippensburg	88	52	69	-4	0.47	2	19.10	2.69	60	2,584	91	4,015
South Mountain	84	49	65	-4	0.62	1	18.31	1.38	51	2,203	126	3,646
York	89	49	70	-3	0.86	2	14.10	-4.17	43	2,562	64	3,995
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	91	54	71	2	0.43	1	16.10	-2.86	46	2,580	332	4,026
Hamburg	90	55	71	3	0.80	1	17.79	-4.19	48	2,599	535	4,039
Hopewell	91	54	71	-2	0.30	1	19.71	0.03	68	2,591	-47	4,039
Lancaster	90	54	71	0	0.20	1	19.21	-0.06	47	2,636	262	4,080
Neshaminy Falls	90	53	70	-2	0.33	1	20.08	-1.98	41	2,438	89	3,859
New Holland	92	57	73	2	0.27	1	15.88	-3.39	46	2,699	325	4,147
Philadelphia	93	63	76	3	0.55	1	16.66	-2.17	45	3,007	297	4,494
Philadelphia NE	94	59	75	1	0.26	1	19.28	0.45	45	2,932	222	4,408
Reading	92	53	72	2	0.28	1	15.96	-4.48	50	2,777	442	4,227
Valley Forge Na	91	50	71	-3	0.00	0	16.80	-2.88	34	2,465	-173	3,881
Willow Grove	90	56	73	3	0.05	1	16.48	-5.58	36	2,714	365	4,176

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).  
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.  
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.  
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.  
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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals..*

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA)** - It was a nice week of weather in Adams County. Daytime temperatures did not get over 85 and nighttime temperatures were around 55 to 60 degrees. Humidity was very low and made for good haymaking weather. Adams County is still dry and could use some rainfall, but the corn and soybeans are coming along nicely. Some producers have started to cut corn silage this week with more to follow next week.

**BERKS COUNTY, Mena Hautau (EXT)** - Late summer weed management in pastures, following small grains and buffer areas. Noted escapes of Johnson Grass.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT)** - Corn looks good from the road, but on closer inspection, many of the ears did not fill out the last two inches. Beans are progressing well with most at R5&6. Corn silage started the end of last week. We need some moisture in the ground for forage and small grain planting.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - It continues to be dry, but we did get ½" of rainfall Saturday. Rain is in the forecast for the upcoming week.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice)** - Crops look below average. Rain from Katrina may boost soybean yields, as moisture is needed to fill pods. Oil has spiked to \$70 a barrel. Harvest costs will be up. With commodity prices dropping and average to below average yields, it's not shaping up to be a banner year.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Most farmers were at the Crawford County Fair this week either showing animals, watching their favorite country singer, or just enjoying all the fair had to offer. It was a good week to get some hay made and start getting ready for corn silage.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H Craig (EXT)** - Silage harvest started. Crops are maturing very rapidly. Scattered showers late in the week did not provide any relief from drought-like conditions.

**FAYETTE COUNTY, Don Fretts (EXT)** - Another dry week with spotty showers totaled less than ½".

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - The crops north of I-80, except for fruits and vegetables, are yielding normal or above compared to last year. South of I-80 is very dry. Most of the crops are below normal yields.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Mark Goodhart** - Corn Silage harvest has started and is becoming more aggressive each day. There are some reports of corn actually doing better than expected. Many producers harvested 4<sup>th</sup> cutting alfalfa this week. It was a very good week for field work!

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler** - It was a very busy week of haymaking and corn silage activities.

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT)** - Drought conditions continue to degrade crop conditions. Non-irrigated sweet corn maturing within the last week is not adequate for sale. Some greenwrap tomato fields have been bypassed due to blossom end rot. Growers expect the harvest season to end early.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde** - Corn choppers are going full speed. We had a nice rain yesterday and today. Lots of top-quality hay was made this past week. Pastures are growing again.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - Excellent week for making hay; however, by late in the week, conditions were getting very dry and crops were showing stress. Some rain Saturday and Sunday helped ease the stress. Sweet corn is in short supply due to the dry late June and above average temperatures this summer. Labor Day corn may not be so plentiful.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer** - The rain that we had last week is gone, and the corn and soybeans on the lighter soils continue to deteriorate in quality. Several farmers are cutting silage to make maximum use of the fading corn crop. The lack of sufficient rainfall is keeping the later cuttings of hay from developing. Therefore, the late 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> cuttings of alfalfa will be well below normal. The main activities for the week were cutting silage, making hay and plowing for winter grain seedings.

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS)** - Weekend showers brought some green color to the landscape. Corn is being harvested for silage with concerns of nitrates being high and energy being low. Lime, fertilizer, and manure are being spread. Spraying for next year's no-till corn crop is being done this week

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS)** - The dry weather continues across the county. Rain is predicted for mid-week from Hurricane Katrina.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Very little rainfall again this week. Late last week, some areas did receive heavy downpours with significant run-off which did very little to improve groundwater supplies. Corn silage harvest is beginning about two weeks ahead of normal because of rapidly-drying corn. Some early-planted corn is yielding well because it finished maturing ahead of the mid-summer's hot, dry conditions. Substantial supplemental feeding of livestock on pasture is needed because grass growth has almost stopped

### PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 28, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	16	12	12
Corn, dough	81	79	72
Corn, dent	44	43	34
Corn, mature	11	7	6
Corn silage, harvested	12	15	13
Barley, planted	17	0	1
Tobacco, harvested	60	68	36
Potatoes, harvested	27	23	22
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	90	63	66
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	14	11	21
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	75	64	68
Peaches, harvested	77	81	82
Apples, harvested	25	35	26

### PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 28, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	4	11	28	44	13
Soybeans	2	8	27	49	14
Quality of hay made	1	5	30	41	23
Pasture	40	26	20	13	1
Apples	3	3	7	56	31

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